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Fight for the Future
PO Box 55071 #95005
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July 17, 2020

The Honorable Rep. Aaron Michlewitz
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Rep. Claire D. Cronin
Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

**Testimony in Support of H. 1538
Moratorium on Government Use of Face Surveillance Technologies**

Dear Chairs Michlewitz and Cronin,

I am writing on behalf of Fight for the Future, a digital rights organization with more than 3 million members nationwide and tens of thousands in Massachusetts. We write in support of H.1538, legislation to establish a moratorium on government use of face recognition and emerging biometric surveillance technologies. Please include this critical legislation in your police reform bill. Facial surveillance is a racial justice issue and a police practices issue. It would be tragic for the House to put out a bill that does not include this urgent reform.

Facial recognition is a uniquely dangerous form of surveillance technology. As experts on civil liberties, digital security, and surveillance technologies, we urge you to act swiftly to stop the use of this technology that has been compared to nuclear and biological weapons in terms of the threat it poses to human society. Fight for the Future leads a coalition of dozens of racial justice, civil liberties, immigration, and pro-democracy organizations including MoveOn, Daily Kos, Color of Change, Mijente, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations, who have called for facial recognition to be banned.

Massachusetts has an opportunity to lead the nation by becoming the first state in the country to press pause on government use of this dangerous technology that automates and exacerbates existing forms of discrimination.

I respectfully request that you include this critical measure in the police reform bill, and go farther than the Senate did in S.2820. We need a permanent moratorium on

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government use of this technology, until the legislature enacts governing regulations. The harms from this technology will not magically disappear on December 31, 2021, when the Senate's proposed moratorium would expire.

Thank you for your attention and consideration,

-Evan Greer
Deputy Director
Fight for the Future